

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 AGR-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 L-03

IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 COME-00 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 120712Z SEP 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6706

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB, JA

SUBJ: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 9248; B. PHNOM PENH 9436

SUMMARY: GOJ WILL SHIP RICE TO CAMBODIAN PORT, BUT DELIVERY DATE NOT YET FIXED. FONOFF SAYS EXCHANGE OF NOTES SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOON, BUT GKR EMBASSY TOKYO COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SAYS EMBASSY HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS THIS SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 10 EMBOFF MET WITH SASAKI, DEPUTY HEAD, SECOND ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU, FONOFF, TO DISCUSS ISSUE OF RICE FOR CAMBODIA. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS, SASAKI EXPLAINED THAT GOJ WILL TRANSPORT RICE TO CAMBODIAN PORT, PRESUMABLY KOMPONG SON IN ACCORDANCE WITH GKR WISHES. FONOFF IS NOW FINALIZING DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES WHICH SHOULD REQUIRE ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS (NOTES WILL BE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO ONES CONCERNING EARLIER RICE DONATION). INTERMINISTERIAL APPROVAL OF NOTES SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THIS MONTH, SASAKI SAID, AND EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH GKR COULD THEN TAKE PLACE QUICKLY.

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2. SASAKI UNWILLING PREDICT DATE OF DELIVERY. ACCORDING TO SASAKI, FONOFF IS CHECKING VESSEL AVAILABILITY IN ATTEMPT TO FIX DATE, BUT DELIVERY DATE ACTUALLY WILL DEPEND ON DECISION BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, WHICH PROCURES RICE, AND MAF NOW QUITE BUSY WITH RICE EXPORTS TO INDONESIA AND BANGLADESH.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11 HON, COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR, GKR EMBASSY TOKYO, EXPLAINED THAT GOJ FONOFF HAD TOLD HIM SHIPMENT TO CAMBODIA WOULD BE AT GOJ EXPENSE. HON ADDED THAT GKR EMBASSY TOKYO HAS RECEIVED NO RECENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM GKR ON EXCHANGE OF NOTES. HOWEVER, GOJ FONOFF TOLD HON NOTES ON RICE WOULD BE EXCHANGED IN PHNOM PENH, HON UNDERTOOK TO KEEP EMBOFF INFORMED ON RICE QUESTION.
INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO11760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730939/aaaabcec.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. PHNOM PENH 9248; B. PHNOM PENH 94, 36
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICE FOR CAMBODIA
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB, JA
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005